

a portion of their Social Security payroll tax into individual accounts. Since the stock market has historically offered higher returns than government bonds and substantially higher returns than Social Security, he suggested that such new-found investment freedom would repair the finances of the retirement system. With the fall in the stock market we now see that a secure, defined-benefit pension has its merits after all. Imagine the political pressures for bailouts in the face of the current stock market decline if Social Security included individual accounts!

Even absent the failing stock market, privatization of Social Security has a fatal flaw: it can only be achieved at huge budgetary cost. Under the current system, the younger generation's payroll taxes pay the older generation's benefits. If Social Security is privatized, so that the younger generation diverts part of its taxes into individual accounts, then the government must finance, at enormous cost, the retirement of the older generation. It's like a family that hands down its clothes from one brother to the next: if somewhere along the way a brother gets to keep his clothes, the family has to head to the mall.

The price tag for the missing generation of clothes was disclosed in December, but without the emphasis it deserved, in the report of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security. This commission was supposed to devise a scheme of individual accounts without jeopardizing the benefits of current or near-term retirees. Two plans proposed by the commission would eliminate the long-term deficit in Social Security. Both plans entail large benefit reductions for future retirees while still requiring substantial infusions of cash into the Social Security system.

This is the bottom line: there is no silver bullet to fix Social Security. Any realistic plan is likely to require a lot of cash to make it politically viable. Yet Mr. Bush allocates trillions of dollars to permanent tax cuts, mainly for the rich, and not a single additional dime to Social Security. Forgoing parts of the president's tax cut that will take effect over the next decade could provide the funds necessary to address the Social Security gap.

We can't afford this budget binge of irresponsible tax policies based on unrealistic accounting. Earnings projections that sounded far too good to be true on Wall Street have turned out to be illusions, even though the public desperately wanted to believe in those numbers. The same is true with bad numbers in the federal budget—the principles of arithmetic can't be denied. If the tax cuts are left in place, high-income individuals, including billionaires exempted from estate taxes, stand to gain while future retirees and taxpayers will lose.

President Bush has called for honest accounting in corporate America. The administration could set an example with an honest budget that ensures that retirees will have the nest egg they depend on most, their Social Security benefits. And to make that a reality, Congress should repeal the tax cuts that have not yet been phased in.

HONORING DR. JAMES POWERS
FOR HIS SERVICE TO MIDDLE
TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my long-time personal friend,

Dr. James M. Powers, for his invaluable dedication and leadership to our community. Dr. Powers is a past mayor of Waverly, Tennessee, and has run one of middle Tennessee's largest private dental practices. He has proven time and time again that he is a leader among his peers, and now all our best wishes go with him and his family as he settles into retirement.

Dr. Powers contributed to the community through his political leadership. He was elected mayor of Waverly and served in that position for 19 years. During his tenure as mayor, he assisted in the development of a new city hall, opened a police department, upgraded the water system and helped attract several companies to Waverly. He served at the state level on the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board and the Tennessee Arts Commission, and was chairman of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

An alumnus of Austin Peay State University, Southwestern at Memphis, and the University of Tennessee, Dr. Powers moved back to our area and with his brother helped build a highly successful dental practice that will continue to help people in our community. He also served two years in the United States Army Dental Corps.

He has proven his dedication and leadership in dentistry through his membership in several associations, including the American Dental Association, Nashville Dental Society, Tennessee Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, Fellow of the American College of Dentists, and Fellow of the International College of Dentists. He was also named outstanding alumnus of the University of Tennessee's College of Dentistry.

Dr. James Powers and his wife Helen have four children and three grandchildren and have established themselves as true leaders in Middle Tennessee. While Dr. Powers begins this new chapter in his life, I am hopeful that they will continue to be leaders in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in thanking Dr. James M. Powers for his years of selfless service and leadership in our community.

HONORING NATIONAL 4-H PROGRAM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as the National 4-H Program celebrates its 100th Anniversary, I rise in honor of this, great milestone.

Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, today's 4-H program began as a series of clubs for boys and girls in rural America, originally aimed at teaching youngsters skills related to agriculture with a learning-by-doing approach. While the program has grown in scope to encompass a wide array of subject matter, hands-on learning remains a core curriculum of the 4-H.

In New Jersey, 4-H clubs are administered on a county government level through the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office. Each club has a particular project area that they concentrate on.

Operating on the same four principals the 4-H was founded on: head, heart, hands and health, the organization has provided opportunities for thousands of young people in my district, and millions across the country, to gain knowledge, skills, and compassion as they grow into the men and women that will be our future.

On the 4-H's centennial birthday I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge three outstanding programs in my district: Morris County, Somerset County, and Sussex County programs.

In Morris County over 400 youth are involved in over 30 clubs which focus on over 25 project areas. With a very active alumni base, the Morris County 4-H has over 100 volunteers that help to reach the young people in the community through club leadership, and event staffing. The Morris County 4-H will celebrate the centennial anniversary at the 32nd Annual Morris County 4-H Fair, which will take place July 26 to 28, with activities for children and adults alike.

The Somerset County 4-H is home to over 1,200 children with over 600 volunteers leading clubs and planning the annual 4-H fair. Focused on reaching as many youths as possible, the Somerset 4-H offers a variety of school enrichment programs based on science and the environment as well as a summer adventure day camp that runs two weeks each summer. This year's fair celebrates the centennial of 4-H in America with the theme "One Hundred Years of 4-H—A Thousand Reasons to Celebrate" and will take place August 14 to 16.

Over 750 youths in 67 clubs make up the Sussex County 4-H Program, not to mention the 5,000 youngsters that the organization reaches through school enrichment programs and camping trips.

Every year the program participates in the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show, where this year they will celebrate this anniversary on August 2 to 4.

Mr. Speaker, as the 4-H celebrates its 100th birthday I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this program which continues to exemplify the best of our youth and our nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN WAYNE WYATT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the untimely death of a fallen firefighter who gave his life in defense of this nation's forests and the people of Colorado. Alan Wayne Wyatt, 51, of Moore's Hollow in eastern Oregon, was killed by a flame-weakened tree or what firefighters sometimes call a "widowmaker", while fighting the Missionary Ridge Fire, which has been burning since June 11th. —

Alan worked as a firefighter, cattle rancher, and rodeo saddle bronc rider, and was considered by many to be a "modern cowboy". Alan was a loving husband and father of two and was known to his family as a man who took his job seriously and never undertook a job

without the utmost caution to threats of danger. He died fighting a fire, which he understood was out of control, and needed containment. Allen is a hero in the true sense of the word and is survived by his wife, Vicky Wyatt; Evans; and Wells Wyatt, all of Oregon. Alan was a knowledgeable and skilled firefighter who will always be remembered as a man of character and a love of nature, his family, and God.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember the life of firefighter Alan Wayne Wyatt. His death highlights the great risks that firefighters encounter day in and day out while on the job and we will truly remember Alan as a brave man who died in defense of life. His sacrifice most certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. I along with a grateful nation and a loving family will miss you, Alan.

TRIBUTE TO THE BUSINESS OWNERS, CITIZENS AND VOLUNTEERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous community spirit shown by the people of Charles County, Maryland. As my colleagues may know, a devastating tornado ripped through Southern Maryland on April 29, 2002 destroying the town of La Plata and creating a 24 mile path of destruction. Not only were homes and businesses leveled, but farms and government buildings were heavily damaged. Under the circumstances, you would think that a tornado of this magnitude would cripple an area. Not in Southern Maryland and particularly not in La Plata.

Immediately following the tornado, the residents took to the streets to check on friends and neighbors. Once everyone was accounted for, the clean-up efforts began. Under the leadership of the Mayor of La Plata, William Eckman, and the Charles County Commissioners, directed by Board President Murray Levy, an immediate plan of action was put into place and countless hours were spent with residents and business owners, surveying each situation and assisting wherever possible. A "People's Place" was set up to offer a myriad of services ranging from food, water and shelter, to helping people find lost pets. Clothing and money poured into the area, but most of all people reached out to help their neighbors rebuild their lives.

Volunteers came from across the States of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia to assist in removing debris left behind by this vicious storm. SMECO, Verizon and Maryland Department of Transportation had staff working round the clock to restore electrical power, establish valuable communication systems and clear the roadways. The Amish communities of Maryland and Pennsylvania donated much-needed manpower to get the Town of La Plata up on its feet again.

The Charles County Chapter of the American Red Cross went into immediate action, once the tornado passed, even though their

own building was destroyed. Mr. Paul Facchina had a "mini business district" set up for the business owners to get back up and running. The Charles County Chamber of Commerce offered office space and business services to companies in need and for days following the disaster local churches and other civic organizations offered food to the hundreds of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that the "worst of times, bring out the best in people" and on behalf of the many, many grateful residents and business owners in La Plata, I want to say Thank You to all the volunteers who gave of themselves so unselfishly. A disaster occurred, and people came from all walks of life to help in any way they could. It did not matter how big, or how small a job, volunteers were available to lend a helping hand. This is the true spirit of America and it was shining bright and continues to beam forward in Charles County, Maryland.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the votes on rollcall Nos. 324 and 325. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MR. GORDON VEAZEY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Gordon Veazey for his 14 years of dedicated service to our nation's veterans. Now, Mr. Veazey begins a new chapter in his life as he retires from his position as Henry County veteran service officer. I ask that the United States House of Representatives thank him for his selfless service.

Mr. Veazey's father, the late Bailey Veazey, was gassed by German soldiers during World War I, causing him serious health problems the rest of his life. Witnessing his father's disability led Mr. Veazey to devote his entire life to veteran causes.

After serving in the Army during the Korean War, Mr. Veazey understands the struggles many of our veterans face. He says one of his greatest satisfactions has been in assisting aging veterans whose ability to earn were limited by disability.

Mr. Veazey was appointed to the office in 1987 after working at Paris Manufacturing Company. During his tenure, he has assisted more than 2,000 veterans in our community in receiving the veterans claim benefits they deserve and depend upon.

We care deeply about our veterans and their courageous service to this great nation. Through Mr. Veazey's leadership he has set an example for future veteran officers who will serve our friends, neighbors, and children whom are fighting in the war today. We should be proud and honored to have had such a dedicated man working for our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask that you and our colleagues join me in applauding the selfless service and dedication Mr. Veazey has contributed to our nations veterans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFF HAMMOND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jeff Hammond, an individual who has selflessly devoted countless hours towards the betterment of his community. In June of this year, Jeff was named "Volunteer of the Year," by the United Way Organization. Jeff is a hard working, determined, attentive individual whose selfless dedication certainly deserves the admiration of this body of Congress and this nation.

Jeff is an active participant in the Craig Youth Soccer program and in addition, he is an active community volunteer who donates his time to helping the community. This entirely volunteer league could not have made critical strides in the development of its youth, without Jeff's contributions. Jeff donates his time equally to supporting religious functions, fundraisers, car pools, and the Northwest Colorado All-Star Wildkat cheerleading squad.

Although Jeff's busy schedule envelopes most of his time, Jeff places first and foremost his devotion and loyalty to his family duties, as a father and husband do not interfere. He and his wife have been married for 12 years and are the proud parents of two children.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I honor Jeff's accomplishments and achievements before this body of Congress and this nation. Jeff Hammond's service to our community has helped strengthen the foundation upon which our great nation was founded and it is with great anticipation I await further successes and achievements in all your endeavors.

HONORING CORINNE "LINDY" CLAIBORNE BOGGS ON OCCASION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to join the House in honoring Congresswoman Corrine "Lindy" Boggs. From her work here, in the halls of Congress, to her days as ambassador to the Vatican, Congresswoman Boggs has served our country and served as an inspiration to all of us who followed in her footsteps. As one who was privileged to succeed her in Congress in representing Louisiana's Second Congressional District, I have been particularly inspired by her work.

Congresswoman Boggs has enjoyed a well-deserved outpouring of love and gratitude in